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Former Director Sig Hecker to present classified colloquium on the end of nuclear testing



Former Lab Director Sig Hecker will speak at the upcoming Director's Classified Colloquium from 1-3 p.m., Monday, November 14, in the NSSB auditorium.

Hecker's presentation is titled "'Divider' and the End of Nuclear Testing: History and Challenges" and recounts deliberations that led to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1996. Hecker, who was serving as the Lab's Director at the time of the nation's last full-scale test, will discuss how the national laboratories responded to the end of nuclear testing, the challenges that the no-test era poses for the nuclear laboratories and how the challenges are viewed by the other nuclear powers.

The Divider test was conducted September 23, 1992. A week later while on a trip to Washington, D.C., then-LANL Director Hecker was surprised to learn that President George H.W. Bush agreed to a nine-month moratorium on nuclear explosive tests. How prepared was the laboratory for the moratorium and President Bill Clinton's subsequent decision to agree to the test ban treaty?

About Sig Hecker

Hecker is a professor emeritus (research) in the Department of Management Science and Engineering and a senior fellow emeritus at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI) at Stanford University.

He served as the Lab's fifth director from 1986 to 1997 and is a Los Alamos National Laboratory Medal recipient. He is an internationally recognized expert in plutonium science, global threat reduction and nuclear security with wide research interests covering nuclear weapons policy, nuclear security, and the safe and secure expansion of nuclear energy.

About the event

The Director's Classified Colloquium is hosted by Lab Director Thom Mason with assistance from the National Security Research Center, the Lab's classified library. Attendees must have a Q clearance and U.S. citizenship.